Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter

November 2026



From The Principal's Desk

Dear Lincoln School Parents, Caregivers and Families,

Welcome to November—a perfect time to celebrate gratitude! I'm thankful for the support you provide at home, the incredible efforts of our teachers and staff, and the hard work our students show every day. I'm grateful for our strong attendance and terrific behavior, and for a wonderful first quarter and second-quarter start. I hope you find time for reflection and gratitude this season.

Together, our school community earned an EXEMPLARY designation in the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) 2026 Profile of Performance. This recognition reflects the dedication of everyone who makes Lincoln special: students, teachers, support staff, families, and community members. Thank you for helping make Lincoln a place where students learn, grow, and succeed!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for last week's Trunk or Treat! Our staff loved seeing students in costume, and it was wonderful to gather as a school community. Special thanks to Emily Tabbert and her committee for organizing the event.

In November, we reflect on and give thanks to the members of our Armed Forces. At Lincoln, we are proud to recognize two veterans: Mr. Bob Harkless, custodian, served two years in the Illinois Air National Guard; Mrs. Ana Barnes, paraprofessional, served eight years in the U.S. Army Reserves as a medic and operating room technician. We are deeply grateful for their service and for all who have courageously defended our freedoms. We honor them on Veterans Day and every day.

Our annual We Care/B.A.C.E. Canned Food Drive runs November 16th through Friday, November 20th. This friendly class competition benefits people in our community, and we appreciate your donations as the holidays approach. Thank you to Janelle Guetschow for organizing the drive. Please watch for opportunities to help count and load food!

In December, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades will present Christmas programs at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at Morton High School. Please see this newsletter for program dates and times.

Wishing all Lincoln Elementary School families a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Wendy Vastine

A Note From the Assistant Principal

Welcome to November! Lincoln students are active in so many activities after school. Students are consistently showing kindness and respect to each other and staff. Thank you for taking those moments to help your child see kindness opportunities and act on them. The smiles in the hallways are always a treat to see. As we enter into the Thanksgiving season, I would like to express my gratitude to all families and staff that help make Lincoln great!

Mr. Smith



COLD WEATHER DRESS REMINDERS

Although we've enjoyed a beautiful, unusually warm fall, cold weather will definitely be on its way. Outdoor recess keeps students active and gives them fresh air, so we'll go outside whenever possible. Students will go outside when the temperature or wind chill is 10 degrees or higher. Students may play in the snow if they have snow pants and snow boots.

Please ensure your child has a coat with a working zipper, a hat, gloves or mittens, a scarf, snow boots, and snow pants for outdoor play. Label clothing with your child's name or initials to help us return lost items. Our dress code advises students to "dress for the weather," with no restrictions on when they may wear shorts during the school year. We'll go outside for recess as much as the weather allows.

For our little lions, please practice putting on snow gear at home. Make it a game and time them. Snow pants go on before snow boots. 🙂

A NOTE FROM MRS. POSHARD

Thank you so much to all of you who worked and shopped at our recent book fair! Because of your generosity, our school and classroom libraries received many free books. Here are a few that your students can find in our library:

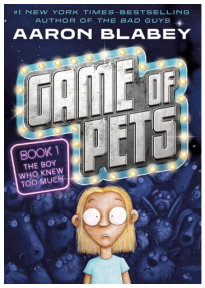


Wombat isn't actually a wombat—but when the homeless dog is discovered, singed and ash-covered after a terrible fire destroys a community, someone tags her with the nickname and it sticks.

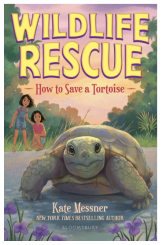
Wombat is a "destiny dog." Something inside of her (she nicknames it "Voice') keeps telling her there's a special

someone out there who is meant to be her person.

No matter what, Wombat refuses to move from her perch, despite the efforts of many humans. Clearly the dog is waiting for someone. But for whom? And what are the odds they survived?



OK, here's the situation:
Thanks to a diabolical intergalactic game show, we are all cooked.
Luckily, Griff, an 11-year-old kid with innumerable allergies, just got told by a talking axolotl named Bob that Griff is the only one who can save us.
I mean, that's *kind of* good news, right?
Trouble is, Bob's prophecy comes with a warning: "Watch your back, man…your PETS are not what they seem…"
Prepare to have your mind blown and your cats and dogs under *heavy* suspicion. It's time to buckle up for an insane, laugh-out-loud new series, 260 million years in the making…



It's summertime and Ana and Sofia are visiting their cousins Ivy and Ezra in Florida! Ana loves being back in her hometown, going to the beach and eating ice cream again. Ever since her family moved to California, Ana's been thinking about trying new things . . . like signing up for the Makers Club instead of playing volleyball again with Sofia.

Then the cousins get a call about an injured gopher tortoise that's been hit by a car. Ana and Sofia join Ivy and Ezra--as volunteer critter couriers--to transport the animal to the local wildlife hospital. And since the city hasn't done anything to make crossings safer for the endangered animals, the four kids come up with a plan to do just that. Ana has never been one for the spotlight but the tortoises need her!

Mrs. Poshard
Librarian
Lincoln Elementary

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Each year in December, our K-3 classes, under the leadership of Mr. Rocke, our general music teacher, present their Christmas programs at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at Morton High School.

Christmas Programs Dates

Kindergarten and First Grade-Tuesday, December 15th

Kindergarten at 6:00 pm

1st Grade at 7:00 pm

Second and Third Grade-Thursday, December 17th

2nd Grade at 6:00 pm

3rd Grade at 7:15 pm

A big thank you to Mr. Rocke for preparing our students for these special performances. Also, thank you to our district transportation department who will shuttle students to/from Lincoln and MHS for those two days for their rehearsals. Mr. Rocke will be sending home additional information about arrival times, dress, etc. as we get closer to our performances. We wanted to make sure you added these dates to your holiday calendars!



Reminders for Drop Off Time in the Morning

As the mornings get colder, more students are being dropped off by car, and traffic can quickly build up around Lincoln School. Anyone arriving after 8:00 a.m. knows how congested S. Nebraska Avenue can get, with cars coming from both the north and south and turning into the school. Please allow a little extra time and patience as everyone makes their way into the circle drive.

Our crossing guards do their very best to help students cross the streets near school safely. Please do not make U-turns on Nebraska to avoid the traffic. This makes the area less safe for students and families.

We understand that the start-of-day routine can be frustrating, especially when you're waiting in line. If it fits your family's needs, consider dropping off between 7:45 and 7:50 a.m., when there is typically very little to no traffic. You can also drop off one block from school and students can cross with the crossing guard. This allows for you to avoid the circle drive. Thank you for your patience and helping keep mornings safe and smooth for everyone!

GAMEBALL RUN Planning is Underway!

We are already planning for this year's Gameball Run, our district's philanthropic efforts for the Children's Hospital of Illinois, located at OSF-St. Francis in Peoria. This will be the 15th year of this amazing community event! Each year, our community comes together to raise funds for the CHOI. These activities include business and personal sponsorships, a 60 minute run/walk at MHS, and a wide variety of fundraising activities at all

Morton 709 schools in January and February.

Each school identifies a "Miracle Family" and that family's story is highlighted as part of the Gameball Run events. These families have utilized the services of CHOI and want to give back by sharing their family's story. Lincoln School's Miracle Family for 2027 is the **Hoelscher Family**; Our miracle kid is **Tucker Hoelscher. Tucker is a 6th grader at Lincoln.** We'll learn more about Tucker and how CHOI has impacted their family's life.

Mark your Calendars for these Gameball Events:

December 8: Lincoln Gameball Night at the Girls' Basketball Game
January 15: Gameball Kickoff Assembly
January 18-25: "You've been Clayed" signs
January 19: Lincoln Gameball Night at the Boys' Basketball Game
January 22: Duct Tape the Principal - During lunch periods
January 28-29: Pop-a-Shot
February 1-5: Coin Wars
February 11: Gameball Run at MHS
February 12: Gameball Run Game at MHS

January 18: Rivermen Night to support the Gameball Run

Lincoln's Gameball Run fundraising efforts are led by parents Lauren McBain and Kelsey Lewis. A huge thank you to the two of them! Thank you to Lincoln parent, Heather Walter, for serving as the Gameball Run chairperson!

Upcoming States in our Travels Around the US!



Week of November 9th: Maryland and Washington DC (not a state 🙂)
Week of November 16th: Virginia
Week of November 23rd: West Virginia
Week of November 30th: Kentucky

Lincoln is Toys for Tots Collection Site

Lincoln Elementary School (as well as all District 709 schools) is again a drop off location for the Toys for Tots program. The Marine Corps collects the NEW toys (not used please), which are given to children in the Peoria

area who may not otherwise receive a new toy for Christmas. There is a drop off box located in the hallway just inside the school entrance. We appreciate your consideration and are grateful for your donations. Toys will be collected through Tuesday, December 18th. We thank you in advance for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, November 3
-Election Day
-Challenge - 2:45-4:00 PM

Wednesday, November 4
-Early Dismissal 11:55 AM - Sassy Monkey drink trailer

Thursday, November 5
-3-6 Game Club 2:45-3:15
-MEC 2:45-4:00 PM DO

Friday, November 6
-MEC at the Rivermen

Monday, November 9
-LifeWise - Lunch Hours
-3rd-6th Grade Read Aloud Club
-K-6 Recess Club

Tuesday, November 10
-Challenge 2:45-4:00 PM
-Board of Education Meeting - 5:30 PM

Wednesday, November 11
-No School - Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 12
-3rd-6th Grade Game Club
-MEC 2:45-4:00 PM DO

Friday, November 13
-Quarter 2 Midterm

Monday, November 16
-School Board Members' Appreciation Day
-LifeWise - lunch hours
-3-6 Read Aloud Club 2:45-3:30
-K-6 Recess Club 2:45-3:15 PM
-MEC 2:45-4:00 at DO
-Newspaper Club 2:45-3:30 PM

Tuesday, November 17
-Madrigal Tour 8:40-9:05 AM (all grade levels)
-Challenge 2:45-4:00 PM

Wednesday, November 18
-Recess Club 2:45-3:15 PM

Thursday, November 19
-K-2 Game Club 2:45-3:15 PM

Friday, November 20
-PTO Luncheon 11:00-1:30

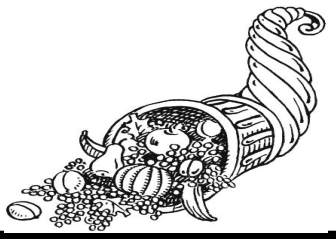
Monday, November 23
-LifeWise during lunch hours
-3rd-6th grade Read Aloud Club 2:45-3:30 PM
-MEC 2:45-4:00 PM at DO

Wednesday, November 25
-No School - Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 26
-Happy Thanksgiving - No school

Friday, November 27
-No School - Thanksgiving Break

Lincoln PTO Newsletter



November 2026

From the PTO President:
Bring on the colder weather!! I am ready for cooler days and fun fall activities. Our big event for November is the Canned Food Drive. This is always such a fun and competitive event with the added bonus of helping out our local community. Janelle Guetschow is spearheading the donation drive and will be providing details on what items are needed, volunteer signup and how those items will be counted in regard to the contest between classes. Please keep an eye out for that information in the next week or so.

Please consider attending our PTO Meeting on Nov 16th at 6:30pm. We do not have a meeting in December so we will be going over all of the events happening in December. Childcare is provided by our 6th grade volunteers.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe November. I am counting down the days to eating whipped cream with a little bit of pumpkin pie!!

Jessica Harding

Mark Your Calendar:

Nov 4th - Early Dismissal (Sassy Monkey)

N**ov 9th - Spirit Wear Sale Ends**

Nov 11th - Veterans Day (no school)

Nov 16th - 20th - Canned Food Drive Kicks Off

Nov 16th - PTO Meeting at 6:30pm (childcare provided)

Nov 20th - PTO Luncheon

Nov 25th - 27th - Thanksgiving Break

Book Fair:
The book fair was a resounding success. We had $7209.84 in sales and we were able to provide $2300 in books to teachers, $300 in books to the library, $700 in birthday books and $400 in books for our scavenger hunt winners. Thank you to all our Lincoln families for supporting the Book Fair and giving us the opportunity to fund our classroom and school libraries..
A very special THANK YOU to our parent volunteers who signed up to help our students find books for their wishlist and to run the register the whole week. This really can not be done without your help!!!

Looking Ahead:
Carnival is already on our radar this month.
We are looking for volunteers (at least two) that can head our Basket Committee. If you and a friend (or a group of friends) would like to help with gathering donations for our basket raffle in March, please contact me at lincolnlionspto709@gmail.com.

Hospitality Committee:

Our next PTO Teacher Luncheon will be **November 20th.** 5th grade will be hosting

.

PTO Board Elections

We are looking for our next PTO President, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2027-2029 school years. These positions are for 2 years.
An informational flyer with descriptions of the job duties will be sent home before Thanksgiving.
If you have any questions or would like to put your name in the ring for any of these positions, please contact me at lincolnlionspto709@gmail.com

SCHOOL NURSE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

FLU SEASON PREPARDNESS

Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- fever or chills (not everyone with the flu with have a fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children)

How to prevent the Flu:

- Stay home when you're sick
- Cover your cough
- Wash your hands often
- Speak with your doctor to find out if a flu vaccine is right for you

MEDICATION REMINDER

All medications to be administered at school by school personnel, both prescription and over the counter medications, are required to have a school medication authorization form completed by the parents and student's physician before any medication can be administered at school. Medications must be brought in by an adult and medications must be in the original bottle.

Medication Authorization Form Link

REMINDERS

- Please send a healthy snack and a refillable water bottle with your child. Please be mindful of any allergies in the classroom noted from the teacher.

HEALTH FORM REQUIREMENTS

Dental exam forms are required for Kindergarten, 2nd grade and 6th grade. Forms are due by May 15th, 2027.

Dental Exam Form Link

Jennifer Cook RN
School Nurse
jennifer.cook@mcusd709.org
309-284-4038
Hours: 7:45am-3:15pm

BREAKFAST

NOVEMBER 2026

Morton CUSD #709

Grades K-12

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Chocolate Chip Breakfast Cookie Orange Canned Peaches	3 Tony's Bacon Scramble Pizza Tater Tots Juice	4 Peach Smoothie Strawberries Applesauce	5 Cinnamon Croissant Apple Raisins	6 French Toast Bites Grapes Juice
9 Pumpkin Donut Holes Orange Canned Pineapple	10 Biscuit & Sausage Gravy Tater Tots Juice	11 **NO SCHOOL**	12 Breakfast Taco Apple Raisins	13 Eggo Mini Maple Waffles Grapes Juice
16 Cinna-mini Orange Canned Peaches	17 Stuffed Hashbrown Grapes Juice	18 Powdered Sugar French Toast Sticks Strawberries Applesauce	19 Egg & Cheese English Muffin Apple Tater Tots	20 Breakfast Banana Split Pear Juice
23 Glazed Lemon Blueberry Scone Orange Canned Peaches	24 Chicken Honey Biscuit Tater Tots Juice	25 **NO SCHOOL**	26 **NO SCHOOL**	27 **NO SCHOOL**
30 Cinnamon Toast Crunch Bar Canned Pineapple Juice				

Breakfast Prices:
Grades K-12 $1.85
Adults/Visitors $2.75
Milk $0.70
Extra Entrée $1.10

MJHS & MHS (only) Daily Options:
Muffin
Cereal
String Cheese
Yogurt Cup
Variety of Milk

Grades K-6 & Morton Academy (only) Daily Options:
Cereal
Variety of Milk

~ Check out our monthly newsletter for descriptions of new menu items, plus much more!
Go to morton709.org , click on menu, and then click on dining. Scroll down to Food Service Newsletter. ~

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LUNCH

NOVEMBER 2026

Morton CUSD #709

Grades K-6

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 1. Beef & Cheese Nachos 2. Chicken Tenders w/ Breadstick 3. Pizza Salad w/ Breadstick	**3** 1. Dutch Waffle & Sausage Patties 2. Chicken Nuggets w/ Breadstick 3. Uncrustable	**4** **Early Dismissal**	**5** 1. BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich 2. Popcorn Chicken w/ Pretzel Rod 3. Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap	**6** 1. Pizza Dippers w/ Marinara Sauce 2. Cheeseburger 3. Popcorn Chicken Salad w/ Pretzel Rod
9 1. Chicken Cheese Taco Crispito w/ Queso Cheese & Tostitos 2. Chicken Tenders w/ Breadstick 3. Pizza Salad w/ Breadstick	**10** 1. Chicken & Rice Soup w/ Breadstick 2. Chicken Nuggets w/ Breadstick 3. Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich	**11** **NO SCHOOL**	**12** 1. Mini Corndogs 2. Popcorn Chicken w/ Breadstick 3. Ham & Cheese Sandwich	**13** 1. Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza 2. Cheeseburger 3. Popcorn Chicken Salad w/ Pretzel Rod
16 1. Soft Tacos 2. Chicken Tenders w/ Breadstick 3. Crispy Chicken Salad w/ Breadstick	**17** 1. Cheesy Breakfast Bowl w/ Grahams 2 Chicken Nuggets w/ Grahams 3. Super Soft Pretzel w/ Cheese Sauce	**18** **TURKEY LUNCH!** 1. Roast Turkey w/ Gravy & Dinner Roll 2. Uncrustable	**19** 1. Orange Chicken w/ Rice 2. Popcorn Chicken w/ Pretzel Rod 3. All-American Sub	**20** 1. Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza 2. Cheeseburger 3. Surprise Super Chicken Salad w/ Pretzel Rod
23 1. Chicken Quesadilla 2. Chicken Tenders w/ Breadstick 3. Pizza Salad w/ Breadstick	**24** 1. Grilled Cheese Sandwich & Tomato Soup 2. Chicken Nuggets w/ Breadstick 3. Uncrustable	**25** **NO SCHOOL**	**26** **NO SCHOOL**	**27** **NO SCHOOL**
30 1. Walking Taco 2. Chicken Tenders w/ Breadstick 3. Crispy Chicken Salad w/ Breadstick				

Daily Options:
- Variety of Milk
- Variety of Fruits
- Variety of Vegetables

Lunch Prices:
Grades K-6 $3.10
Adults/Visitors $4.00
Milk $0.70
Extra Entrée $2.15
Cookie $0.75

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